



SACHI A. HAMAI  
Chief Executive Officer

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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December 17, 2015

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To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai  
Chief Executive Officer

### **WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR (FFY) 2016 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL (H.R. 2029)**

#### **Executive Summary**

This memorandum is to provide the Board with an update on H.R. 2029, the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 omnibus appropriations bill, which would fund all Federal discretionary programs and activities and also extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which funds CalWORKs in California, through the end of FFY 2016.

Based on our preliminary analysis of the 2009-page bill, H.R. 2029 would fund the vast majority of Federal programs through which the County receives funding at or near their prior year levels. Moreover, the bill rejects the deep cuts for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding included in previous Senate appropriations bills, and, instead, increases HOME funding by \$50 million to \$950 million and SCAAP funding by \$25 million to \$210 million in FFY 2016. Of County interest, the bill includes language to exempt the County's public housing authority (PHA) from a requirement that each PHA have a Section 8 or public housing tenant on its governing board. In addition, the bill would delay the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) excise tax ("Cadillac tax") on high-cost employer-sponsored health insurance plans for two years until 2020.

A short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) was enacted on December 16, 2015 to temporarily fund Federal programs and activities through December 22, 2015. This CR

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averts a Federal government shutdown and provides both houses sufficient time to pass and send H.R. 2029 to the President, who has indicated that he will sign it into law.

### **Highlights of the FFY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2029)**

Congressional and Administration negotiators have reached agreement on H.R. 2029, an omnibus appropriations bill, which would fund all Federal discretionary programs in FFY 2016, and which also is being used as a vehicle for other legislation, including tax changes and extensions of a number of expiring programs and provisions of law. Based on our preliminary analysis of this bill, H.R. 2029 would fund all of the Federal programs through which the County receives funding at or near their FFY 2015 funding levels with the following exceptions, which are described below.

Most notably, HOME funding is increased by \$50 million to \$950 million, and SCAAP funding is increased by \$25 million to \$210 million in FFY 2016 in sharp contrast to previous Senate appropriations bills, which would have deeply cut both programs. The Senate would have reduced HOME funding from \$900 million to only \$66 million and SCAAP funding from \$185 million to only \$75 million in FFY 2016.

H.R. 2029 also significantly increases funding for the following programs:

- Project-Based Rental Assistance increases from \$9.73 billion in FFY 2015 to \$10.62 billion in FFY 2016;
- Section 8 Administrative Fee funding for public housing authorities increases from \$1.53 billion to \$1.65 billion;
- Homeless Assistance Grant funding increases from \$2.135 billion to \$2.250 billion;
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Grant funding increases from \$831.8 million to \$873.4 million;
- WIOA Adult Grant increases from \$776.7 million to \$815.6 million;
- Mental Health Block Grant increases from \$482.6 million to \$532.6 million;
- Community Services Block Grant increases from \$674 million to \$715 million; and
- Trafficking Victim Services funding increases from \$42.25 million to \$45.0 million.

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The only program through which the County receives funding that would be significantly reduced is funding for new HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers, which is reduced by \$15 million to \$60 million in FFY 2016. However, the previous House-passed FFY 2016 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill would have eliminated this funding. The bill includes funding for all existing HUD-VASH vouchers.

Other provisions of County interest include:

- The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, which funds CalWORKs in California, would be extended through September 30, 2016. Its authorization originally expired at the end of FFY 2010, but Congress has since temporarily extended it numerous times;
- County-supported language is included to exempt the County from the requirement that public housing or Section 8 tenants be represented on the governing board of the County's Housing Authority, similar to language included in prior years' appropriations bills;
- Army Corps of Engineers funding is provided for the operation and maintenance of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (\$7.327 million) and Marina del Rey dredging (\$3.846 million); and
- The implementation of the ACA's excise tax ("Cadillac tax") on high-cost employer-sponsored health insurance plans is delayed for two years from 2018 to 2020.

None of the appropriations bills for FFY 2016, which began on October 1, 2015, have been enacted. To avoid a Federal government shutdown, Federal operations, instead, have been temporarily funded through short-term Continuing Resolutions, the latest of which was enacted on December 16, 2015 to extend funding through December 22, 2015. This should provide both houses sufficient time to pass and send H.R. 2029 to the President, who has indicated that he will sign it into law. The bill does not include policy riders, such as riders to block the admission of Syrian refugees or defund Planned Parenthood, which could prompt a Presidential veto.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR  
MT:lm

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist